

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, AO, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY OF ANGOLA

1. SUMMARY: LITERATURNAYA GAZETA BLAMES U.S. FOR THE
SITUATION IN ANGOLA. PRAVDA REPORTS OAU SUMMIT CLOSING IN TWO
LINES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA (JAN 14) CARRIES A TWO-SENTENCE REPORT OF THE
CONCLUSION OF THE OAU SUMMIT, STRESSES THE ALLEGED MILITARY
SUCCESES OF THE MPLA ON THE NORTHERN FRONT, BUT ALSO HIGHLIGHTS
MPLA ADVANCES IN THE SOUTH WHICH WERE MADE "DESPITE SOUTH AFRICAN
MILITARY EFFORTS."

AT THE SAME TIME, ITEM FROM ADDIS ABABA BY V. KOROVIKOV
STRESSES THE INCREASING MILITARY CAPABIITIES OF SOUTH AFRICA

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AND THE THREAT THIS POSES TO THE REMAINDER OF THE CONTINENT.

PRAVDA ALSO REPLAYS EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA BY HANOI, HAVANA, AND TANANARIVE.

3. IZVESTIYA'S (JAN 13) COVERAGE OF THE OAU SUMMIT MENTIONS THE 22-22 DEADLOCK, EXPLAINS THE ELEMENTS OF THE NIGERIAN RESOLUTION, AND CLAIMS THAT " PRESSURE BY THE U.S. AND OTHER IMPERIALIST FORCES" COMPELLED THE INTRODUCTION OF A SECOND RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CEASE-FIRE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT "OF A SO-CALLED GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY, INCLUDING THE SPLITTIST GROUPS FNLA AND UNITA"

4. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA (AN 14) CARRIES A LENGTHY COMMENTARY BY E.V. ENTITLED "ANGOLAN TRAGEDY; WHO IS GUILTY?" WHICH CONCLUDES THAT THE U.S. IS. THE ARTICLE IS A FAIRLY STANDARD DIATRIBE AGAINST ALEGED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, U.S. SUPPORT OF ITS "PROTEGE" ROBERTO, AND CIA RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE "ANGOLAN TRAGEDY."

5. COMMENT: THE LIT GAZ PIECE IS THE STRONGEST AND LONGEST ANTI-U.S. STATEMENT IN QUITE SOME TIME, AND MAY HERALD A PERIOD IN WHICH BLAME FOR STALLINGTHE PRO-MPLA BANDWAGON WILL BE PUT ON THE U.S. THE ANTI-U.S. TONE OF IZVESTIYA'S COVERAGE ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIET PROGAGANDA MACHINE--AT LEAST IN THE ANGOLA CONTEXT--WILL PROBABLY BE FOCUSED ON THE U.S. FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HOWEVER, LIT GAZ IS NOT AUTHORITATIVE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND NONE OF THIS COVERAGE SIGNALS SPECIFIC SOVIET REACTIONS OR NEXT STEPS IN WAKE OF ADDIS ABABA STANDOFF.
MATLOCK

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